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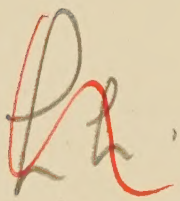

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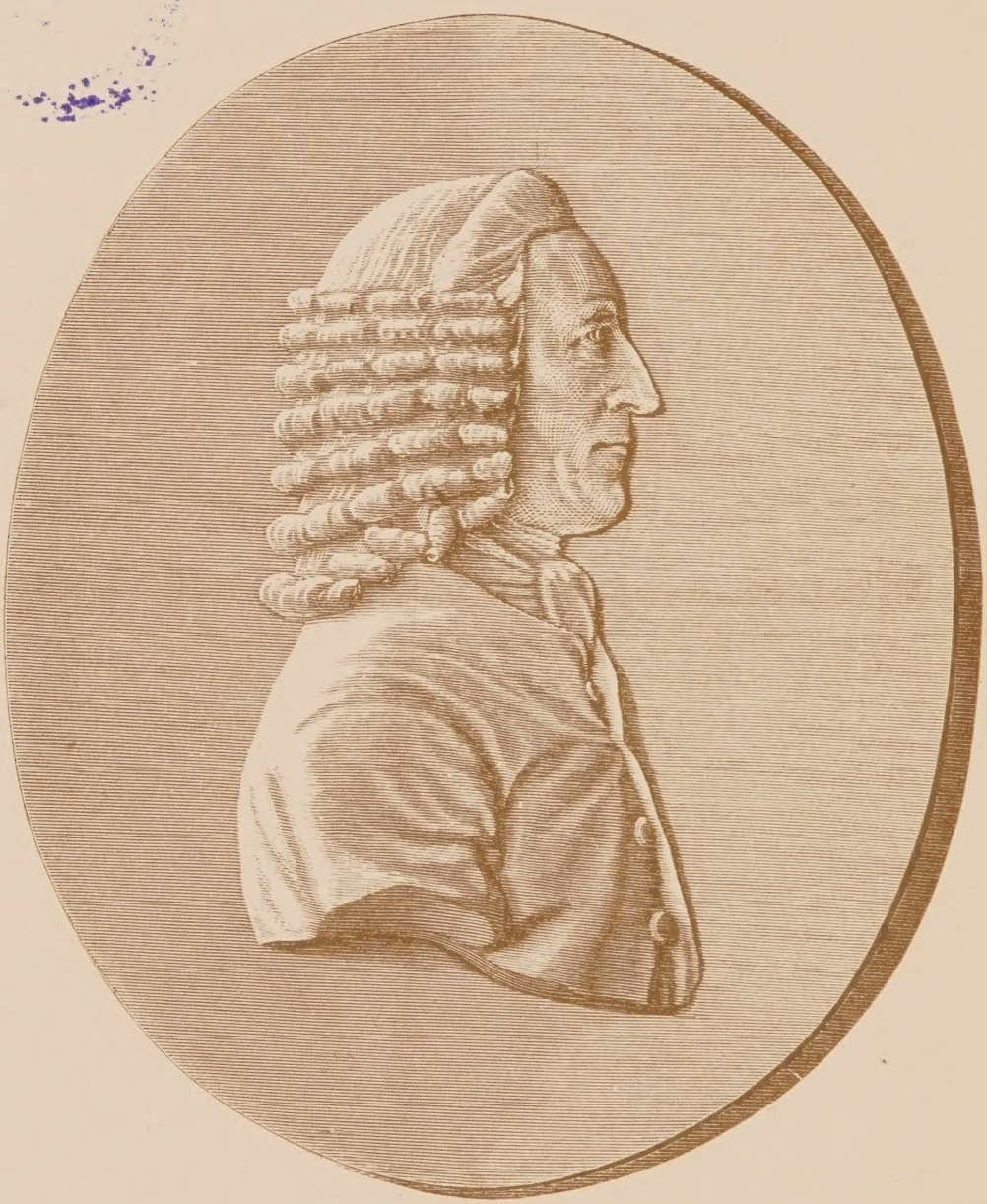

John Fothergill.

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ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY
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1773

A

SKETCH OF THE LIFE

OF

JOHN FOTHERGILL,

M.D., F.R.S.

BORN 1712; DIED 1780.

BY

JAMES HACK TUKE.

(Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Centenary of Ackworth School, held the 26th and 27th of June, 1879, of which Dr. Fothergill was the Founder.)

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"In a very entertaining little essay by the late Dr. Beddoes, is a classification of physicians according to the Linnæan method,—as the 'canting doctor,' the 'wheedling doctor,' the 'Adonis doctor,' and the 'quack doctor'; but we do not recollect any mention of the Quaker Philanthropist Doctor. Yet such an one was Dr. John Fothergill, a man who rather lives in the gratitude of mankind for the *good that he did*, than in the archives of science for the facts he discovered, the phenomena he explained, or the theories he constructed." — *Hartley Coleridge's Life of Dr. Fothergill* (*Biographia Borealis*).

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A SKETCH OF THE LIFE

OF

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D., F.R.S.

THE earliest time at which the name of Fothergill occurs in history is, so far as I have been able to trace, in connection with the siege of York by the Norman William.

Old Drake, in his celebrated "Eboracum," gives an amusing account of an adventure in which the Conqueror and his knight Fothergill were concerned, which led to the capture of the "Noble old Citty," and which briefly may be related as follows:—

"The North Riding and the City of York having long withstood all efforts to conquer them, Duke William determined himself to lay siege to the city, which he commenced on St. Thomas's Day. Retiring in the evening, after an unsuccessful day, to his camp at Skelton, he met two friars, and on inquiring where they dwelt, they said at York, and were of a poore Priory of St. Peter's, and had been to obtain 'some relief to their fellows against Christmas.' One of them was laden with a Wallett of Victuals and a Shoulder of Mutton in his hand, and two great cakes hung about his necke, one of

backe and another of his breast. The other had a bottle of Ale and a Wallett filled with Beef and Mutton.

"The Normans did confer with these Poore Friars, and promised them large gifts if so they would let them into their monastery, and also give them money. The Conqueror also promised that he would make their Priory all new, and give them great revenue, which he did after perform. Soe they did condescend to let them into the Citty at a Postern Gate; and the King sent for his army, and he, with his general of the field, Fothergill, took the Citty that night."

The Conqueror acted well to Sir Robert Clifford and others, who had so nobly defended their ancient city, "and willed that they should ask what they would have, and they should have it."

"They demanded of him if they might have every St. Thomas's Day a Friar of St. Peter's Priory, painted like a Jew, to ride of a horse, with the Taile in one hand and Shoulder of Mutton in the other, with a Cake before his breast and another at his backe, all throughout the Citty, and the Boyes of the Citty to ride with him, and proclaim that the Citty was taken that day through the treachery of the Friars; which it is added was continued as a Memorial to that day."

This Knight Fothergill married "the faire Isabel Poulton," or Boulton, who had as dower many manors, including, among others, those of "Sedber and Garsdale."

That the Fothergill family known to us were descendants of the Norman Baron and the "faire Isabel" we do not pretend to say; but this can easily be traced—that for three or four centuries, families of this name have resided

in the wild and secluded valleys of Ravenstonedale and Mallerstang, both valleys in Westmoreland, which adjoin upon "Sedber and Wensleydale." Sufficient for us, for the purpose of this memoir, is the fact, that a John Fothergill migrated thence to Counterset in Wensleydale, and afterwards to Carr End soon after the year 1600.

The simple humble life of the "Statesman" or "Dalesman" of Yorkshire or Westmoreland, as it existed centuries ago, does not present many incidents for the historian to dwell upon, and thus it is that until the rise of Quakerism we know comparatively little of the ancestors of Dr. Fothergill's family, except that they had undoubtedly dwelt in these vales for many previous generations.

But Quaker history—which has preserved for us, like "flies in amber," lives or notices of so large a number of its earliest members—tells us that at Carr End, on the banks of the small and quiet lake of "Semer Water," there dwelt Alexander and Ann Fothergill, who were probably convinced by George Fox (about the year 1652), as "he passed up the Dales warning people to fear God, and preaching the everlasting Gospel to them." *

Here, in 1676, John Fothergill the elder, the father of Dr. Fothergill, was born. Living in immediate succession to the Fathers of Quakerism, he inherited much of their earnest spirit, and devoted the greater portion of his life to the work of the ministry and missionary journeys throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as North America and the West Indies. Three visits were paid to America at different periods of his life, the first when he was thirty

* George Fox's Journal, folio, p. 72.

years of age, and the last when he was about sixty. The devoted simplicity of his early life well deserves our hearty admiration and respect. He appears to have inherited the little estate at Carr End, after the death of his father, in 1695, who had suffered much the previous year from months of imprisonment in York for refusing to pay tithes, in company with the ancestors of not a few of us who are now present.

A year after his father's death, when about twenty years of age, he began his ministerial work, and gave up housekeeping, and the house at Carr End, retaining "only a little ground in his own hands for some necessary employ which" (he says) "I loved and believed was both good for the body and a beneficial stay to the mind."

Soon after he gave up even this land in order to be more "completely at liberty" for his journeys in the ministry, "yet worked often (on the land) for some others, both for a living, and that my mind might not be too much disengaged from temporal concerns, wherein there appeared to me a danger." But still he adds, "I loved to be at home with my friends and to labour with my hands in the creation."

When about thirty-four he married Margaret Hough, of Sutton, in Cheshire, a woman likeminded with himself, and settled down for some years in the old family house at Carr End. Here the seven children were born, brought up with a "zealous concern" (he says) "that they might have an inward experience of an Holy living principle operating in their hearts" in order to "lead them from error and unrighteousness into all truth and the practice of every Christian virtue."

Two of these children—the second son, John Fothergill,

the most distinguished physician, and Samuel Fothergill, the sixth son, the most distinguished Quaker preacher of the middle of the last century — were striking instances of the value of this teaching. John Fothergill, the future doctor, was born on the 8th of March, 1712. (*Appendix A.*)

In very early life he was placed under the care of his mother's family, the Houghs of Cheshire, who were people of good fortune, with whom the bright, energetic, and sweet-tempered boy was, no doubt, a great favourite; and to them he was in after years largely indebted for the means which allowed him to carry on his studies.

After leaving the elementary day school at Frodsham, in Cheshire, he was sent (at twelve) to the old-established Grammar School, of about 120 boys, at Sedbergh, on the borders of Yorkshire and Westmoreland, and not very far from his father's house. There he seems to have remained for four years, and obtained that thorough education which was of such good service in after life. Dr. Saunders was the head master at this time.

The Sedbergh School owed its foundation to Roman Catholic times. In the year 1528 (says the old chronicle),

> "Master Roger Lupton, a man of pious memory deserved, founded a public school, where the youth among the 'Sedbarians,' should be instructed in letters and gentility; and gave it, endowed with a certain small sum for the support of a schoolmaster; and also founded a small chauntry, in which masses were to be sung to redeem the soul of the founder, or others whom he might appoint."*

* History of Sedbergh.

Nor was this the only instance of Dr. Lupton's zeal for education, as the "Lupton Tower" at Eton, of which he was Provost for some years, testifies. He also established "a foundacion for sixe" scholars, or disciples, for ever to remain "in the colledge of St. John's, Cambrydge, to be chosen from such as had been students in Sedber School." But the Reformation brought troublous times upon Sedbergh, a few years later, and the school was reduced to the greatest poverty by the confiscation of its lands, &c., spite of the earnest pleading of the celebrated Roger Ascham. It was reconstituted in Edward the Sixth's reign, as the "Free Grammar School of Sedbergh," and has flourished to the present day.

Leaving Sedbergh School in 1728, at the age of sixteen he was apprenticed for seven years (as the Indenture now shown proves) to Benjamin Bartlett, an eminent apothecary at Bradford. B. Bartlett was a minister in the Society of Friends known to young Fothergill's father, with whom he travelled extensively. His house (says Gilbert Thompson*) might be called—

> "The Seminary of Ingenious Physicians. How happy to obtain such a master, when to imitate him was to be the gentleman in sentiment and manner, to be generous, good, and virtuous. He had here the completest opportunity of knowing drugs, and preparations in their best and genuine state, of compounding them with neatness, visiting patients, and of laying the

* "Memoirs of the Life and a View of the Character of the late Dr. John Fothergill." Drawn up, by desire of the Medical Society of London, by G. Thompson, M.D. 1782.

best foundation in an art to which his mind had an early and strong impulse. He gave many flattering expectations under the precepts of his worthy master, and his sensible conduct and behaviour attracted the notice, and even admiration, of some considerable persons in the neighbourhood."

It was probably as some recognition of the fidelity of these services that he was liberated before the expiration of the term of his apprenticeship, to pursue his medical studies in Edinburgh, which, from the eminence of the men who at that period filled the Professors' chairs, had the highest repute; suffice it to name Drs. Munro, Alston, and Rutherford, — all of them pupils of the celebrated Boerhaave, of Leyden.

I have been fortunate enough to have had placed in my hands, by my friend I. M. Williams, of York, to whom it was given by a great-niece of Dr. Fothergill's, the memorandum or account book, in which the young student entered with great minuteness his daily expenditure and some other details, beginning with his entry upon Edinburgh life in 1734, and continuing to the year 1739, when, unhappily, it ceases. By an entry on the first page of this book, it appears that his grandfather, Thomas Hough, had left him the sum of £120 towards his education, and that on leaving home he received £20 (part of this) from his uncle Thomas Hough, towards his college expenses. He appears to have ridden from Carr End on horseback, selling the mare he rode (for £4 4s.) to Jonathan Ormston, of Kelso; and his expenses for the three days, on the way from Carr End to Edinburgh amounted to 17s. 6d. All his belongings were probably in his saddle-bags, as among the first entries

in his account book we find:—"A hat, 7s. 6d."; "13½ yards linen, at 1s. 11d. per yard"; "shirts making and stocks, 5s."; "gloves, 1s. 3d."; "shoes, 4s. 6d." And further on we find he pays for 4 ozs. tea, 2s. 9d. (= 11s. per lb.), 1s. 6d. per lb. for sugar, and 3d. per lb. for butter. For his lodgings he pays 2s. 6d. per week.

The Edinburgh of that period was a city of little over 50,000 inhabitants, much divided in political feeling and allegiance; among whom, as was shown, the Jacobin fire needed but to be fanned to burst forth into a flame, when ten years later the Pretender's flag was unfurled before the city. The town itself was as great a contrast as is possible to that which the every-day traveller calls to mind, as he thinks of the "modern Athens." The old town, with its narrow streets and dark "wynds," upon which we look with so much interest, was the Edinburgh of Fothergill's student days; and doubtless, as he passed up and down the High Street, he often looked up to the words over the house of John Knox at the head of the Netherbow—

"Lufe. God abufe al. and yi nychtbour. as yi.self."

—words which might seem to have been chosen as his motto, and carried out during life to an extent which few have surpassed.

His first visit to London was probably made during the summer recess of 1735, as we find an entry of, "Paid my freight from Leith by vessel to London £1 11s. 6d.," a voyage which appears to have taken as long a period as is now occupied by the steamers between Liverpool and New York; the voyage to London taking nine days and the return to Edinburgh even a longer period.

Both during this visit to London, and in Edinburgh, he commenced to form his library, and a list of these purchases—costing £18 1s. 0d., during the two years, is now before me; the only *non*-medical books in the list being "Thomas-à-Kempis," 6d.; "Boyle's Seraphic Love," 8d.; and "Ray's Travels," 12s.

At the University he pursued his studies, says his biographer (Lettsom)*

> "With serious attention, and a purpose of being well grounded in those principles of science, preparatory to a conscientious care of life and health. He was one of the few who engaged the particular regard of the Professors, and I have heard several of them in their public lectures speak of him in terms of sincere esteem, and equally commend his professional accomplishments, and the integrity of his life."

Dr. Lettsom says that Dr. Fothergill adopted the method of taking notes of the heads of each lecture of the professors, and on returning to his lodgings translating those into Latin which had been given in English, and then carefully consulting and comparing the opinions both of the ancients and moderns upon the subject, after which he added such remarks as his reading and reflection furnished; thus gaining a knowledge both of ancient and modern medical practice which was of the greatest use in his future career. He also carried on with much assiduity the study of the Greek and Latin, and probably French, languages.

Using again the little account book, we find, under the

* "Memoirs of J. Fothergill, M.D.," by J. C. Lettsom, M.D., 1783.

date of Second Month 20th, 1736, "A letter from father." That letter is still extant, and forms one of a series of letters which have been placed at my disposal by the kindness of Alexander Fothergill, of Darlington, a lineal descendant of the writer, John Fothergill the elder.* This letter refers to the prospect of his son's shortly leaving Edinburgh for London, and is a pleasing evidence of the care taken by a parent of whom the son in after years constantly speaks in most affectionate and grateful terms:—

"With respect to thy going to London" (he writes) "I could say little, nor yet have any settled dislike or uneasiness to dissuade therefrom, nor dare I say much on the other hand, but pray, and believe if thou walk and step with reverence, and yet with a cheerful trust and without too much boldness, fear to tempt the Lord for extraordinary directions, more than may be agreeable to His wisdom to give; the Almighty will care for thee and cast up ways one little after another to thy comfort and His own honour; which my own soul is much affected in longing for on thy account, more than words can set forth thou may be assured, and which is much of what I can now do further for thee. Farewell, Farewell, thy nearly loving Father,—J. F.

"*To* JOHN FOTHERGILL *att* THOMAS ARESKINE,
Brewer in Edinbro'."

* I have also to thank T. C. Riley, of Liverpool, for obtaining for me the valuable collection of Fothergill Papers, belonging to the Crosfield family; also J. B. Braithwaite, Fothergill Watson (of Nottingham), and G. S. Gibson for the use of private letters and papers, &c.; and my brother, Dr. Hack Tuke, for researches in the British Museum, and much other aid.

Soon after, young Fothergill wrote his Latin Thesis; took his degree of Doctor of Medicine, and left Edinburgh in the autumn of 1736, having most probably witnessed the excitement resulting from the firing by Porteous upon the mob, and the subsequent riot and burning of the Tolbooth, and execution of Porteous; scenes so vividly depicted by Scott in "The Heart of Midlothian."

The 29th of October, 1736, saw Dr. Fothergill, at the age of twenty-four, in London, where, the more thoroughly to qualify himself for practice, he entered as a pupil at St. Thomas's Hospital. During this time, though chiefly thus occupied and in visiting the poor, he took a few fees, some at 10s. 6d., and others at 21s. He expended £8 10s. on a watch, which sum I shall be happy to give for it to the present fortunate possessor. I should, however, hardly like to pay £2 8s. 1½d., which he gave to "Richard Reynolds for 2¾ yards of drab cloth at 17s. 6d. per yard, for coat and breeches." Nor must I omit the entry of the purchase of his *first cane*, 4s., and a pair of spurs, 29s., and, as showing the literary bent of his mind, Homer's Iliad, Pascal's Pensèes, Woodward on Fossils, and a Hebrew Grammar; also "Amber Stones" 14s., and a Map of Siberia, on both of which subjects he read essays in after-years before the Royal Society. With his brother "Samme" he also visited Oxford.

A letter written about this time to his brother Alexander, who resided on the family property at Carr End, strikingly shows his maturity of character and depth of feeling at twenty-five.

"If thou supposed thyself almost forgot, thou wast mistaken; if ideas could be clothed with substance, if

thoughts could be rendered as visible as they are quick, ocular demonstration would convince thee of the contrary; how often would thou see me, in the house, in the orchard, in the fields, and scampering amongst the rocks, . . . whilst I am attending thee at work, or admiring thy fruitful genius in turning to some purpose the unpolished crag or crooked ash; . . . when, with fear lest sooner or later the enemy should tempt me to a lukewarm state, by the many objects I am daily conversant among, I sometimes ask,—has the enemy as much power in the rural retreats of my native dale?

"A thousand scenes of folly are here perpetually offered to my view, besides the horrid din of blasphemous oaths, sufficient almost to pollute the air, and draw down the waiting vengeance. Wensleydale is void of these, at least it is in one's power to shun them. Thrice happy are you whilst I view you in this light; but change the scene, look to the heart—are you less selfish, less obdurate, more full of Divine love. Yes! some holy souls there are, purified and redeemed from earth, possessed of a degree of primeval simplicity, and unaffected innocence, but how few of these; how numerous the sinful, the obdurate, the rebellious, and such as know not experimentally that there is a God, but with the strongest pretences to Christianity are real practical Atheists, in the *true* sense of the word. Of both these kinds our world here is composed. Here and there we meet with bright seraphic souls disengaged from earth, but cordially despised for it by the rebellious and miserably stupid part of mankind, by much the most numerous. If one examines into the way by which one of the blessed

inhabitants above described, of your or our country arrived at this degree of purity, we find it by one and the same way; viz:—a willing obedience to the internal dictates once certainly learned by a close attention to the Dictator. Thus dear Brother, I find little odds; happiness is confined to neither city nor country, we possess it in proportion to our obedience, and our willingness to part with everything for it."

Fairly established in practice, he took a house in White Hart Court, Gracechurch Street (in 1740), adjoining the once well-known Friends' Meeting-house there. As appears from the little book, so often quoted, he received fees in this year to the amount of 105 guineas, and expended £104, of which £44 was spent in travelling in Holland and Germany for twelve weeks.

I may here refer the curious for further information about this journey to the letter in Latin which he addressed to his friend Dr. Cuming on his return home, given in Dr. Lettsom's Life.*

But I cannot refrain from giving a short extract from a letter written about this time to his brother "Samme," in which he refers to a visit from his father in London.

"I wonder not" (he says) "at the tenderness thou expresses; whilst he was here my heart was filled with thankfulness, not only for such a parent, but also that I could see some marks of that treasure of goodness which it has pleased Divine love to place and treasure

* "Memoirs of John Fothergill, M.D.," by J. Cookley Lettsom, M.D. London: 1783.

up in his soul. The wisdom of his conduct, his uprightness and humility often affect me."

We have now brought the life of Dr. Fothergill to the period of his establishment as a physician in the City of London, what was then truly "*The City of London*"; a London which, though then deemed "immense," had a population of scarcely three-quarters of a million.

Here, during the succeeding forty years, he laboured unremittingly, attaining to the highest rank in his profession, and numbering among his patients some of the most worthy and distinguished characters of the century. But in estimating his character it would be a great mistake to regard him simply as a great physician; it was in its highest and widest meaning, *as a friend to man*, that he has a claim upon our regard and admiration. There is scarcely a point which affects the physical, moral and religious interests of the race, which did not attract his attention, and receive benefit from his judicious and untiring labours.

As it will be necessary for the purpose of this sketch to be as brief as possible, and, at the same time, to give a general idea of what manner of man Dr. Fothergill was, we propose to take the forty years in decades.

During the first decade, we find him living alone in White Hart Court, his practice for some time growing but slowly; thus when half through the period he writes to his brother:—

"In regard to money I cannot at present command 5 guineas. I have £120 in two friends' hands, from whom I cannot yet demand it, £20, I lately sent to T. Erskine,

of Edinburgh" (probably for some assistance given whilst a student there) "and £50 I paid J. Hunt, on brother Joseph's account, and this, with some little trifling sums, is my all."

And it was not until near the close of this period that his "History of The Putrid Sore Throat" (then almost a plague), which work was considered his masterpiece, brought him into note, and with a sudden bound gave him a large and lucrative practice.

What his views about practice were may be learned by the following extract from Dr. Lettsom's Memoir:—

"Nothing (he says) hurt his feelings more than estimating the profession of Physic upon lucrative advantages; the art of healing he considered in that sacred point of view which connected it with a conscientious principle of action. 'My only wish was to do what little might fall to my share as well as possible, and to banish all thoughts of practising Physic as a money-getting trade, with the same solicitude as I would the suggestions of vice and intemperance.'"

Noble words! which he carried nobly into practice throughout his long career, often refusing fees, with the greatest delicacy, even from those thought by others to be able to pay, and especially from the clergy, of whatever denomination. In many instances he not only refused to take money, but gave handsome sums to those who were in affliction or poverty from illness, amounting in one case to £1,000.

Of his views about housekeeping at this time, a short extract from another letter to his brother says:—

"Thou wilt smile at my singularity when I tell thee that I am determined to know as little about housekeep-

ing as possible. If I can, I'll get a trusty servant, if not, I'll be cheated rather than be confined to marketing, and have to do with bartering and cooking."

Then, after some directions, he adds,

"Thou knows my way; I would have what's good and becoming the situation I am cast into."

That Dr. Fothergill was not without thoughts about marriage during this period is clear; but I think it must be admitted that he was a cool lover, and justified the truth of the adage, "Faint heart ne'er won fair lady." Here are one or two extracts from his letters on this subject:—

"Thou wants to know what progress I make towards *matrimony;* none at all, but advancing years. I hinted once that an overture had been obliquely made. I thought about it a good deal, carefully. I did not trust myself in ——'s company, till accident threw us together at a meeting. Her behaviour there determined my resolutions not to think about her any more in that light. . . . Oh! that P—— was what I wish her, and that it was decreed we should be one and happy. She knows not that I wish it, nor very few except thyself. I shall wait some time longer with great calmness, and only wish that everything may happen for the best, whether agreeable to my inclination or not.

"I am happy in an employment that suits my disposition, that has thus far supported me decently, and preserves me in a great degree independent, and respected among my acquaintance. For this I am thankful; I pray to be more so, and to live as becomes such favours. Solitary, absent from my nearest relations, weak and contemptible, I am kept from repining at anything that occurs to me."

Later on he writes—

"My not having a companion to take care of a friend, if I am called out, often deprives me of their company; but this I must for the present bear, as I don't know how to remedy the inconvenience, as I am still in the dark with regard to ——'s family, having not yet received any answer to a letter I sent to them near three months ago. I can't think of engaging in any fresh pursuit; however I shall pay just deference to thy opinion. . . ."

The result of it all was, that he never married.

During this first decade we find him very actively engaged (young as he was) in the interests of the Society of Friends, and as a member of the Meeting for Sufferings —at that time rather more entitled to its name than is now the case — he was appointed correspondent for Staffordshire, and speaks of the Friends as his "constituents," and of himself as their "representative," much as a Member of Parliament would do now.

In this period (1745) the Scotch invasion occurred, and as the Pretender's troops advanced as far as Derby, great alarm was naturally felt, not only by his Staffordshire constituents, but by Friends generally, and it is evident that considerable difference of opinion arose as to the course of action to be pursued by Friends. A paper was issued by the Meeting for Sufferings which the Doctor did not approve of, thinking that it lowered the testimony of Friends against war; and with no small difficulty, and some speech-making, he used his influence to have another paper substituted for it, for the uncompromising tone of which he was much blamed by some, but which eventually ruled the Society of Friends.

It was during this period, also, that Dr. Fothergill's justly honoured and beloved father died, of whom Dr. F. subsequently compiled a memoir.

The following words from his last letter to his son close a correspondence which Dr. Fothergill says afforded him the strongest satisfaction that anything in this life could yield. The Father's words are these :—

> " I ask no questions further but to be helped to live to the Ever-living Being the little time He may suffer me to continue on this side the grave. As I have no dependence on human assistance but from thee, nor any correspondence which affords me like comfort and satisfaction, I must beg thy frequent remembrance, and to hear from thee as often and freely as leisure will permit; and be assured my hearty careful desires for thee in every true good, not only are entwined by the strong ties of nature and affection, but are more rivetted and strengthened by many a gracious spring of living goodness from the Almighty Helper of His people who have trusted and feared Him. Thus, dear Son, farewell, farewell.—J. F."

After his father's death, the estate of Carr End, containing about 200 acres (then worth about £30 a-year) went to the eldest son, who also practised as a lawyer; and as the Doctor had only £60 as his share of the family property it is evident that Dr. F. was solely indebted to his own exertions for his position. Even this " Patter money," as his sister Ann calls it, he made over to her, adding £40 more of his own. Of Carr End and its surroundings, a few words may not unfitly be inserted here.

There is no need to say a word to a Yorkshire audience

CARR-END, SEMMER WATER, WENSLEYDALE, THE BIRTHPLACE OF DR. JOHN FOTHERGILL.

(FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE JOHN FOTHERGILL, OF DARLINGTON.)

in praise of Wensleydale, with its broad meadow slopes of luxuriant grass running up to the moorland heights above, or downward, amidst the most lovely fringes of trees broken by an occasional "scar" or cliff, to the peaceful river below. Semmerdale, situate at the head of the valley, is one of the numerous smaller valleys which run nearly at right angles with the larger vale of Wensley, and in which the little stream which flows from the heights above forms, before it enters the Ure, a little lake in the midst of bare, marshy meadows; but the whole are surrounded by low mountainous hills, which give to it a sense of secluded beauty. Towards its southern end, about four miles from Askrigg, Carr End is situated on the rocky road which leads across the hills to Marsett or Kettlewell, at a point where it suddenly drops down nearly to a level with the lake. The house is so shut out from the road by tall trees, and the rock at the foot of which it is built, that, though within a few yards, the traveller is scarcely aware of its existence until almost passed. The house, which faces nearly east, is on the edge of the low meadows which surround the lake, and from the little garden—once kept trim and neat, with its little lawn and flower-beds, but now chiefly devoted to potatoes—there are views both right and left, especially the former, worthy of the pencil of Dr. Fothergill's collateral descendant, the late George William Fothergill (himself an Ackworth scholar), and one of my most intimate friends in early life, whose death cut short a career of great artistic promise. Of the house at Carr End but little can be said. There is a stone let into the gateway by which you enter the garden, on which is carved "J. F., 1677," but the house

is of a later period, and has a neglected, desolate air. The present tenant is a small farmer, and a part of the house is let off to the village schoolmaster; as we saw it in the quiet, fading light of the evening, the plaintive cry of the plover, as it came to us from the moorland, seemed a fitting wail over the departed life of Carr End as it surrounded the boyish days of Dr. Fothergill.

The estate passed away from the Fothergill family so recently as 1841.

Of the interest which he felt in Carr End, we have many instances in his letters to his brother Alexander, who resided there, upon whom he urges planting and other improvements:—

"Remember planting: the time is at hand, and as firs grow with so much expedition, put them down everywhere; whilst young they may be defended, and under their covert every other species of timber will grow."

In another he says:—"Plant ashes thick on the highway side; by this means half the drip falls on the road, which likewise supplies half the nourishment. I know of no one who has thought of this circumstance. Sow ashes and acorns together; the ashes will shelter the oaks, and may be cut down before those can injure these."

He mentions that he has sent by vessel, to Hull, "a small bag of acorns, and a cargo of some hundred young elms;" and adds, "I'll be answerable for all expenses if thou wilt be at the expense of planting them."

Again he says:—"Thou wilt not forget what I have so often recommended—I mean planting, and to look out for every convenient spot to raise wood in. Young ashes,

I am informed, will thrive well in the more swampy parts. The borders of Simmer Water will suit the experiment well."

Probably much of the timber which at this day surrounds Carr End is the result of these repeated injunctions. Nor was planting the only point. In the same letter he refers to an experiment he had before mentioned, with regard to the making of cheese, and begs his brother to make him one in the manner proposed.

The cattle plague seems to have broken out with great violence about 1748-9, "threatening the worst consequences to the public, and ruin to individuals." He writes with minute directions to his brother about the treatment needed, and on the absolute necessity of separation, and avoiding all possibility of contact between sound and infected cattle.

"In short" (he says) "you have no way left to stop its progress but by keeping your cattle wholly within yourselves. Men may carry the venom in their clothes; horses, dogs, swine, nay fowls, may carry it from one place to another."

He advocates the stopping of all markets and fairs, and indeed the letters might with advantage have been published during the early part of the recent outbreak which inflicted so heavy a loss upon the country. Small-pox seems about the same period to have been rife; and he writes to his brother, at Carr End, one of whose family had died of the complaint, strongly advising inoculation for the other.

"I should earnestly advise inoculation" (he says), "'tis an operation easily to be performed, and in the manner I

am going to direct it is seldom with any ill effects. In common, those who have it in this way get through without the least danger. A common sewing thread, of moderate thickness, may be drawn through a ripe spot in such a manner as that some part of the thread may be a little moistened with the matter. . . . Then, with the point of a needle, make a small scratch on the skin a little below the knee, either inside or out; cut off a short bit of the thread (for instance the eighth part of an inch, or less,) and lay this on the little bleeding scratch; cover it with any kind of sticking-plaster, and the whole is done."

He then goes on to describe the usually mild form of the complaint—which will begin on the eighth day after—gives directions, and adds:—

"As I am clearly convinced that by procuring the disease in this slight manner will be of great advantage, so I cannot but warmly recommend it to all who have numerous families of hopeful issue, and have paternal regard enough to wish them safe through a most loathsome disorder. Thy loving brother," &c.

In another he expresses a hope that the school at Countersett (a village about a mile from Carr End, where the Meeting-house which they attended was situated,) will not be allowed to drop. "Any expense I will willingly defray." Nor was it only as regards the outward or material benefit of this brother and his family that he was so much in earnest. Here is one among many instances of his brotherly care and advice:—

"Endeavour to be to thy family what our father was to us. So will Providence bless thy care, and make them a blessing in old age. Thou knows my wishes, my views,

—let me say my hopes—that thou wilt understand the seduction that lies near thee, and, I confess, to us both. But greater will be the triumph, if, with capacity to please, we rather choose to follow the dictates of simple unpleasing truth, and thus become fools for Christ's sake—the hardest of all lessons to many."

Before leaving this period we may notice as a proof of the high estimation of his friends that he was appointed Clerk to the Yearly Meeting for the year 1749, at the age of thirty-seven, the sixteenth Clerk from Benjamin Bealing, who held the appointment from the time of George Fox to 1722.

We also find him reading papers before the Royal Society, upon Amber and Siberia, &c., as early as 1743 or 1744.

Entering upon a second decade (*i.e.* between 1750 and 1760) we find that, "failing matrimony," his sister Ann came to reside with him, who lived with him during the thirty remaining years of his life. He often speaks of her in his letters in terms of the warmest affection and appreciation. Let one extract suffice. Writing to his brother Alexander (1755) he says:—

"Sister Ann is still poorly, . . . but I hope she will soon be restored to her usual, if not better, health, and be long my sister, my companion, my friend, and my example."

The sister herself, who devoted her life to the Doctor, in writing to her brother Alexander, says:—

"I have my health at present just as well as before I came here, being under the care of a kind, affectionate brother and physician, who often orders some little thing

or other to recruit my constitution, and endeavours to inspire (me) with cheerfulness and ease."

She goes on to describe the life in her new house:—

"A new scene of life it is to me, where a multitude of occurrences attend to engage, divert, or amaze. Singular I am, and so I hope to continue, in my dress; the antic folly I observe does not incite me to imitate. Brother's extensive acquaintance and esteem exposes me at present to a pretty deal of company. . . . He has employ for every hour of his time, and is anxiously careful to execute his business well, that so much intense study and fatigue keeps him very thin, and he is *generous beyond a wish.* I came here in great fear. I find I am very deficient; but brother is not for dismissing me. He'll bear with imperfections, or try to improve me awhile longer."

Then we find pleasant intercourse constantly kept up between the family at Carr End and White Hart Court. Sister Ann sends clothes for the family, and they in return send "Yorkshire hams, hung beef, oatmeal, which they cannot obtain in London, and are very good," she says, "and which make an agreeable part of many a regaile.* I borrowed a bake stone, scarce expecting to see such a thing in town, and made some oate bread, which several thought a *choice regaile*, and of which luckily the Doctor is very fond, and which often makes up the greatest part of his supper."

The following letter is so descriptive, and gives so vivid a picture of the Doctor's life at this time, that we give it nearly entire:—

* A genuine Saxon word, worthy to be recoined.

DR. FOTHERGILL to ALEXANDER FOTHERGILL,

London, 12/1, 1753.

"DEAR BROTHER,

". . . . My time is much less my own than ever, and if I live must still be less so for a season. My business is not the most gainful. Many, very many, I attend as a duty, which costs me labour and some thought, yet all my business is not of this kind. I have a greater income than ever I expected, but my expenses are likewise large, and as it is but very lately that I was fairly upon a level ; so it will be long, if I live, ere I get so much as to maintain me with less labour. I generally go out at nine, and am traversing the streets till two or past. I then come home to dinner, and, if not called out before, I begin again about four, and have something to do till between seven and eight, now and then till nine. It would perhaps surprise thee to hear that the last year afforded me not less than £1,800 and that I spent not much less than £1,000, yet this is not far from the truth.

"I imagine that my business is greatly magnified ; but so intimate a friend, so near a relation, ought to be better informed.

"When I consider my beginning, progress, and present condition, a youth, a stranger, with little money, without friends, being utterly unknown in the place, and that from thence in the space of about seventeen years, two of which were wholly spent in improvement here, I should be favoured so far, it raises many a serious and sometimes grateful consideration and acknowledgment to a Power whose great name I am not worthy to mention.

"Thy son I hope will be taken suitable care of at Coz Gilbert Thompson's. The expense I shall cheerfully defray. As to Jane, I shall do my part and do it with pleasure in order to convince thee of the unfeigned affection I bear thee as my brother and my father's son. Thy kind presents at length came safe and were acceptable. . . .

"Farewell, and be assured that I am thy affectionate brother,

"J. FOTHERGILL.

"Pray remember me to the worthy Justice (Metcalf)."

The words, "The expense I shall cheerfully defray," occur again and again in the correspondence with his family. Whenever a niece was to be married, or a nephew to be educated, whenever a brother needed help, the Doctor's generous, loving aid, is given unsparingly, and without thought as to his own future wants.

Dr. Fothergill began during this period to publish in the *Gentleman's Magazine* a monthly report of the weather and temperature, chiefly in relation to disease, and regularly continued it for several years (1751-6), when the press of his engagements, combined with other causes, compelled him to give up this most useful and very interesting work. One great object which he had in view was to excite other experienced physicians in various parts of the country to imitate his example, that by a comparison of their united observations new truths in the science of healing might be discovered. In this, unhappily, he was disappointed, no one responding to his wish. Small-pox, for instance, and the causes from which it seemed to him to arise, are frequently mentioned, and the practice of inoculation—just then beginning to attract observation—advocated. The yearly deaths from this complaint, in London alone, were sometimes 2,600; and this, we must remember, in a population under a million.

He may be said to have been the pioneer in the road to those meteorological observations which we all now consider so important. There was at this time no registration of deaths or births, and burials, and Dr. Fothergill used all his influence to effect this most desirable object; but it was not until some years after his death that this was carried out, and the Bills of Mortality were reduced to a system.

It was during this period (1754) that he was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

John Wesley was one of his patients during this time; but, ill as he was, his earnest spirit did not allow him to carry out the Doctor's advice to rest and repair to the Hot Wells at Bristol for change. Probably, like his comrade Whitfield, he thought "that *perpetual preaching* was a better remedy than a perpetual blister."

It is characteristic of the two men that, during the war with France, whilst Dr. Fothergill was doing all in his power to point out the folly and injustice of the quarrel, John Wesley was offering to raise 200 of his converts as a volunteer corps.

> "Man," says Dr. Fothergill, "whose passions ought to be humanised in the school of Him who invariably recommended peace on earth, can never become the *natural foe* of man, ... even were religion of no avail; *interest*, one might imagine, would urge him to the communication of mutual benefits. . . . Habit has rendered the language of '*natural enemy*' familiar to national prejudice *as regards France*, yet," he adds (in advance of modern politicians), "even France might be united to us by interest and friendship were we to encourage mutual intercourse in trade, instead of interdicting it by severest restraints.
>
> "Whilst she takes of our woollens, our hardware, or other heavy articles, we might receive in exchange her wines, and other articles which the gaiety of the people or the constitution of the soil, seem better adapted to produce."

What the Doctor's views were in regard to the great revival under Wesley we have no means of knowing; and I do not find the slightest notice of that great religious movement of the eighteenth century which has since affected every town and village, nay every hamlet, in England, and is felt throughout the English-speaking world.

With the third decade, beginning in 1760, the year in which George III. came to the throne,* we have evidence of his interest in the educational work in the Society of Friends, as we find him presenting a report of a committee of the Meeting for Sufferings to the Yearly Meeting on Education. It refers especially to the need for the better encouragement of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in the various counties.

He was now forty-eight years of age, in the full vigour of his active intellect, and with an ever-increasing practice, "the whirl of dissipation" and "cruel service," as his sister calls it, also increased; but it was not his practice alone which filled up every moment of his time. Devoted as he was to his patients and the study of medicine, these formed but a portion of the work which he undertook—chemistry, conchology, entomology, corallines, and above all botany,—filled up the moments which he could spare from the active work of his profession.

In order to carry out his botanical researches he sought for ground in the immediate neighbourhood of London,

* Dr. F. wrote the address of congratulation sent by the Society of Friends to the King on his accession to the Crown.

and found a sheltered spot on the Surrey side of the Thames, in every respect suitable. The proprietor being willing to sell, he was about to complete the purchase, when he found that it was let to a tenant whose whole family depended on its produce, and "whose misery was inevitable had he expelled them from this fruitful soil." He therefore refused the offer, adding, that that could never afford gratification to him which entailed misery on another, and, in addition, nobly presented the family with the intended purchase-money.

Soon afterwards (1762) he purchased the gardens at Upton, so well known in after days as the hospitable residence and grounds of the late Samuel Gurney. It contained at that time a house, garden, and about thirty acres of land, afterwards increased to about sixty acres. The garden contained about five or six acres. "Here," says Gilbert Thompson, "his active mind had ample room to expatiate and indulge in its private pursuits. In launching out into the extraordinary expense which must attend so large an undertaking, his great design was to enrich his garden and grounds, and hence his own nation, with many rare and new productions of the vegetable kingdom, such as might not only embellish any gardens, but by their curious structure and properties be objects of scientific speculation, or (which was his primary intention) be subservient to the interests of his country and to the common good.

"With these views he spared no pains, no cost, in establishing a correspondence with almost every part of the globe, and his wishes happily succeeded in procuring a vast quantity of plants and seeds from China and the East and West Indies, from Siberia and the Alps, North

America, and the newly-discovered islands, as well as from Africa,—that stupendous garden of vegetable beauty.

"His garden, formed upon this extensive plan, and yearly improving by large supplies of the more rare indigenous plants and new exotics, arrived at length to that pitch of excellence as to be esteemed the second in Europe, the Royal Gardens at Kew alone deserving the pre-eminence." He employed here, it is said, fifteen gardeners.

It is thus described at the time:—

"On the banks of a winding canal rare and exotic shrubs flourished. In the midst of winter, evergreens were clothed in full verdure, without exposure to the open air; a glass door from the house gave entrance to a suite of hot and green-houses, nearly 260 feet in extent, containing upwards of 3,400 species of exotics, whose foliage was a perpetual verdure, and in the open ground in summer nearly 3,000 distinct species of plants and shrubs vied with the natives of Asia and Africa.

"That science might not suffer a loss when a plant he had cultivated should die, he liberally paid the best artists to draw the new ones as they came to perfection; and so numerous were they that he found it needful to employ three or four artists in order to keep pace with their increase. His garden was known all over Europe. Foreigners of all ranks asked permission to see it."

The extent to which we are now indebted to Dr. Fothergill may be partially learned by the following account, for which I have to thank my friend J. G. Baker, F.R.S., of Kew:—

"A list of the plants that were in his greenhouses at the time of his death was published by Dr. Lettsom, and

as the names were very carefully determined by his friend Solander of the British Museum (the best botanist then living in England), the document, of which we possess a copy at Kew, possesses great value in connection with the history of Gardening in England.

"Dr. Fothergill frequently offered rewards for the introduction into this country, or the colonies, of plants of medicinal value. For instance, he offered a premium of £100 to two captains of ships for living plants of the Winter's Bark (*Cortex Winteranus*), a native of extra tropical South America, and named after Captain Winter, who used it as a remedy for scurvy.

"He tried (but without success) to obtain plants of the Cinchona, a native of the Andes, the most valuable of all known vegetable medicines.

"He also attempted to introduce into our West Indian Colonies the Bread-Fruit Tree and the Mangosteen; the former from Polynesia and the Indian Archipelago, where it forms the staple food of the islanders, and the latter, which is about the size of an orange, and has the reputation of being the most delicious of all tropical fruits, from the Straits of Malacca.

"Dr. Fothergill employed as one of his collectors a Friend named Bartram (after whom a genus of Mosses was named) to travel through the Southern United States. Another was employed in the Alps, and one at the Cape of Good Hope. He was one of the earliest to import and spread into English gardens the Kalmias, Rhododendrons, Maples, and other shrubs from the Western hemisphere, and to honour his memory, an American shrub, the genus Fothergilla, was named after him by the younger

Linnæus. The French Botanist, Aublet, also named a genus Fothergilla, after him, now called *Miconia Fothergilli*. Other plants perpetuate his memory, among which may be noticed—'Fothergill's Lily' (*Nerine Fothergilli*) and *Calceolaria Fothergilli*. He is best remembered in horticulture as the raiser of Fothergill's Geranium (*Pelargonium Fothergilli*) one of the earliest races of the zone-leaved Cape Geraniums, which are now so popular. Specimens of the more interesting plants grown in his garden were given by him to Sir Joseph Banks, and are now preserved in the great National Herbarium at the British Museum."

At Upton, of which Dr. Fothergill says "there is a forest on one side, not populous, and a Meeting," he sought occasionally for a little quiet from the excessive hurry of his London life; but it was too near to afford him the relief he needed. Importunate patients could send to him, and he could not resist their appeals.

So we find him writing from Upton, under date of 15th of Tenth Month, 1764, to his brother Samuel Fothergill, at Warrington:—

"*At Upton, 15th of Tenth Month*, 1764.

"Dr. Fothergill to Samuel Fothergill.

"One day it came into my thoughts, unsought for, to retreat a few months next summer into Cheshire, and it seemed easy to me to do so, and some part of the country not far from Middlewich seemed pointed at. . . . I am looking for quiet in a place where I have no acquaintance, yet not far from those I most love. My AIM IS QUIET, and if I can procure some decent abode not far from a meeting, not far from a market, in a situation not unhealthy, not very populous, where we may have room enough to entertain

a friend and live not uncomfortably, be the terms what they may, we shall be satisfied. I want nothing great, or elegant, or expensive ; but if nothing but what is such can be had I would submit."

Then there is a brisk correspondence between the brothers, which ends in the Doctor taking "Lea Hall," about four miles from Crewe, for a term. In this correspondence we find him sending a present of books to his brother, also to his uncle Hough, "To whom," he adds, "I wish to give every mark of grateful remembrance in my power."

The following summer we find him writing to his brother that he intends "to leave home in the Seventh Month, and so to reach our quarters by Third-day night"—probably four or five days on the road with his own horses and carriage. He proposes to send two maids, to be there a few days in advance, so as to have all in neat order for "Sister Ann and myself." The goods (five cases) needed are sent down by vessel to Liverpool, smaller packages are sent by carrier. He adds :—

"Please procure for us, and send to Lea Hall,

2 gallons of the best French Brandy,
3 do. of good Mountain (Wine),
1 or 2 dozen of very good White Wine,
6 gallons of good red Port,

rather new, as little bordering on the acid as may be. A rough, good-bodied wine I like best."

The order may seem large in these teetotal days, but I do not know that five or six dozen was an excessive quantity to be laid down in the cellar of this hospitable

retreat to which, though he aimed at quiet, his friends were constantly invited. Writing again to his brother, he says:—

"I am thankful, repeatedly thankful, for the prospect of this recess; . . . and I esteem it, as I ought, *as a means of escaping by degrees from labour next to oppression.* Much I owe to the public, and honestly have I endeavoured to repay the obligation. May they never want persons better qualified than myself to serve them! On me the world has not frowned. I courted not its favours nor feared the reverse. It is time, however, to think of getting into port, and as the wind serves I hope to make use of it."

Lea Hall as it now exists is not a taking place; the country around is low and damp, and it is a matter of surprise that the Dalesman should have selected this spot for his retirement, unless it be on the ground that, excepting those who sought his own society, the place presented no attraction. To him the early associations with Cheshire, where he had lived in childhood with his mother's family, doubtless presented great attractions, and there was also the further pleasure of his brother Samuel's society who resided comparatively near, at Warrington.

But the Lea Hall of to-day, with its dismantled gate-posts and weedy gardens, and neglected, desolate paths, must not be thought of as the place of Dr. Fothergill's retreat. Then it was doubtless a pleasant country house, built in the Queen Anne period, and much like many of the smaller French chateaux which one sees in the country districts of France, with its trimmed-walled garden and orchard, and bowling-alley, and fish-pond, and pavilions. The interior

of the house, like the exterior, is now neglected and out of repair. The rooms are lofty and panelled throughout, and doubtless when the good Doctor and the neat sister Ann and her trim housemaids held court there; and the big coachman and the black horses and post-chaise filled the courtyard, the scene was as great a contrast as possible to the neglected, deserted rooms, and the poor half-blind farmer ("nearly dark" as a neighbour called him), and his stout wife and daughter hard at work at the cheese-press, whom we found there when we visited Lea Hall this spring.

From 1765 to the year of his death he regularly retired for the autumn months to Lea Hall. Here he wrote up his arrears of scientific or other correspondence, which extended to most parts of the civilised world, spending four hours a day in writing. Here, too, he enjoyed at times the society of his brother Samuel and of his nephews and nieces, and a few intimate friends—medical and scientific.

It is not improbable that the vicinity of Etruria—where Wedgwood was then carrying out his perfect, beautiful work, bringing home to the simple and unlearned the exquisite sense of beauty which exists in Greek art, and which he subordinated to the everyday purposes of life—led him to form, at this time, a friendship with the "Great Potter." As we know from Miss Meteyard's life of Wedgwood, Dr. Fothergill often corresponded with Josiah Wedgwood, to whom his exact chemical knowledge was of value, and he also took especial interest in the question of the clays of North America, then imported in small quantities from the Cherokee and Pensacola districts, but which have since been superseded by our own Cornish clays.

The black bust which we have before us to-day, of Wedgwood-ware, is from a model taken by Flaxman *(see Appendix B.)* after the death of Dr. Fothergill, as we find in Wedgwood's Memoirs the following entry:—

"Mr. Wedgwood to J. Flaxman.

"May 20, 1781.—Moulding a bust of Dr.

"Fothergale ... ... £1 4s. 0d."

Two busts of Rousseau and Sterne figure in the same bill at 16s.

It is probable that the beautiful cameo likeness now reproduced was also modelled by Flaxman.*

Whilst at Lea Hall he devoted one day in each week to attending the poor, gratis, at Middlewich, the nearest market town, and, in order to lessen the applications of more wealthy patients, who followed him to his retirement, he took no fees. As an illustration of the great fame which the Doctor enjoyed, it may be mentioned, that on his journeys to and from Lea Hall, he was intercepted (often to his annoyance) at every stopping-place by patients or apothecaries who desired to obtain his advice.

We find during this term Dr. Fothergill and his sister paying a visit to Carr End (1763). Driving from Scarborough (whither he had retreated for a while to recover strength) by way of Thirsk, where he asks his brother Alexander to meet him in order "to show them the way," he hopes to "drive from thence to Askrigg or Bainbridge in a day and a-half."

* It is a curious instance of the incorrectness of historians that the cameo likeness figured at page 7 in Miss Meteyard's "Life of Wedgwood," as that of Dr. Fothergill, from the Mayer collection, is not his likeness at all.

"We fancy" (he says) "we can get to Bainbridge in our carriage, and leave it there, or at Askrigg, with our horses and servants; only the saddle-horse to carry me, and thou must get one, either double or single, to carry sister."

He hopes to reach Carr End on Seventh-day evening, and to attend Meeting with them next day, and then to Lancaster the following day (so he does not stay long in the old home), and adds:—

"Give thyself no uneasiness about our entertainment. Nothing will come amiss to us but thy family's too great concern about our accommodation. Remember we have lived there, and yet can do with great content if you will permit it"

We should like to have seen the cavalcade as, leaving the admiring awe-struck crowd of villagers at Bainbridge, it wound up the hilly rocky road to Carr End. The great London Doctor, with cocked hat and big wig, in light drab suit and drab silk stockings, sitting upright on his horse, with sister Ann in light drab bonnet and habiliments of the plainest sort on a pillion, escorted by brother Alexander, let us hope in Dalesman's costume.

Towards the close of this decade (1767), Dr. Fothergill removed from White Hart Court to Harpur Street, then a newly-built street (for the house was not finished when they took possession of it). Writing of this change of residence Dr. Fothergill says:—

"We find a great difference between Harpur Street and the City; we have almost an hour more daylight. I keep at home to see patients only on Third and Fifth-day afternoons, by which means I have Second, Fourth

and Sixth-day afternoons more at liberty, and I hope gradually to lessen both my business and all my incumbrances."

Later he says—

"I am in treaty to let Upton. I find it embarrassing in point of time, though managed with frugality, expensive. I shall preserve the liberty of the garden and part of its produce, but quit all further use of it for a lease of seven years. What seeds I receive will be taken care of, and I contribute to the support of the gardens."

He had, in fact, found that he could rarely visit his beloved gardens, and Lea Hall, and the change to Harpur Street had prevented the need of another country house. The writer well remembers, when a boy, on his first visit to Upton, being shown by the late Samuel Gurney many of the rare shrubs in the garden; and also being told the tradition that Dr. Fothergill had so little time to visit the place by day-light that he used to come down in the evening and go round the garden to inspect his favourite plants with a lantern. A few of his shrubs still linger in the garden, which is now converted into a People's Park.

Dr. Fothergill's love of botany brought him into correspondence with the celebrated Linnæus, and he not only generously helped, but superintended the great and expensive botanical work of John Millar, published to illustrate the Linnæan system. He also largely assisted the authors of other scientific books, as, for example, Dr. Russell's "History of Aleppo" (afterwards writing a Memoir of Dr. Russell), and Dr. Cleghorn's "Diseases of Minorca;" Edwards' beautiful work on the "Birds of Great Britain," and Drury's "Entomology," were largely assisted by him.

Nor must the munificent assistance which Dr. Fothergill rendered to Anthony Purver, in the translation and publication of his version of the Old and New Testaments, be overlooked. Not only did he give pecuniary assistance, to the extent of two thousand pounds, to the translator (a poor self-taught man), but, it is said, revised the whole of the sheets as they passed through the press, and subsequently did all in his power by recommendation or gift to promote the circulation of the folio.

We pass on now to the last decade of his life, which alone is connected with Ackworth School—1770 to 1780, in the closing days of which he died.

The removal from White Hart Court to Harpur Street did not lessen his work; for, though he lost many of his City patients, those who came from the West-end were even more numerous and exacting, and again and again we find both the Doctor and his sister speaking in the strongest terms of the excessive hurry and fatigue of his busy life.

> "My brother is at the full stretch continually, of what his faculties of both body and mind can sustain. He drags himself about from eight in the morning to near five, which is now our hour to dine. He eats a morsel in almost impatient hurry, and is out again about six till near nine or ten; then comes home, scarce able to get upstairs, and then sits down to write until eleven or twelve." And, again, she speaks of the "anxious fatigue and solicitude impressed on his countenance."

So great was his practice during this period that it is said he had sixty patients on his daily list in the year 1775, when influenza was very rife; but we suspect that his

income (then stated to be £7,000 or £8,000 a-year) was not so large in reality, from his extreme generosity and unwillingness to take fees from his patients. Quaker as he was, he would not take pay from clergymen, and numberless are the instances known in which he not only refused fees, but gave large sums to patients whom he thought needing help. There were also at this period many and increasing objects which claimed his deepest sympathy—the loss, also, of his much-loved brother Samuel saddened and depressed him.

The condition of the French prisoners of war, who were left rotting in barracks and prisons in various parts of England, deeply moved him; and he and other Friends joined in a large subscription raised throughout the country for their help, of which the Society of Friends raised one-fourth part. He was also selected by the Government to inquire into the terrible mortality raging amongst the Spanish prisoners in Winchester Prison, and had the selection of a competent physician intrusted to him, who soon reduced the daily deaths from twenty-one or more to a minimum.

Jointly with Howard, the distinguished philanthropist, whose friendship he enjoyed and with whom he heartily co-operated, we find him working at the prisons and making suggestions for the employment and separation of *convicts*, and for the formation of penitentiaries; nor did the question of slavery escape his attention. Then, again, at home the subject of canals, the condition of the streets of London,—the absence of pavements, the narrowness and filthiness of the streets,—the need for increased and more direct communication from one part of the City to another, the police,

and general administration of City matters, all claimed his vigilant eye; and it is said that on the improvement of the streets alone he wrote upwards of one hundred letters to the papers.

One of the last letters which he wrote, little more than a month before his death, was addressed to the River Lea Company, suggesting to them to cut down the trees on the banks of the river in consequence of the injury caused to the water by the decomposition of their leaves, and urging them to establish public baths for men and boys, as well as for women and girls, at a low rate—6d., 3d. and 1d.!

Nor did the careless mode of the burial of the dead then common, with large pits for the poor, usually in crowded parts of the City, and often very offensive, escape his attention. He advocated the removal of the burial-grounds to open places, mentioning Moorfields as a desirable place; and also the establishment of public cemeteries "executed with decent elegance and suited for any degree of citizenship."

Jointly with David Barclay and some others, he formed a plan for supplying the poor and others with fish and potatoes by land carriage, breaking down a monopoly which kept up the price too high; and in the time of scarcity advocated the use of Indian corn or potatoes mixed with wheat, causing proper directions to be printed and distributed among the bakers and others.

That the excessive rigour of the Criminal Code, which at that time made the gallows the punishment of an infinite variety of crimes, and probably condemned upwards of 1,500 men, women, and children to Tyburn during the forty years the Doctor resided in London, did not claim his

attention, seems strange to us now; and not less remarkable does it appear that, except for the passing remark of one of his biographers "that his sympathising manner was helpful to the mind diseased," we find no trace of any attention to disorders of the mind. The Doctor wrote treatises on sore throat, on influenza, on consumption, on sick headache, but never refers to insanity—though the subject must constantly have been forced upon his attention in his immense practice.

The time had not yet come for the great and blessed reform in the criminal code which we have witnessed, nor for the introduction of any rational treatment of mental disorders; and it was reserved for another Yorkshireman —a colleague of the Doctor's in his great educational work at Ackworth—to commence at the York Retreat, a few years after Dr. Fothergill's death, that system of mild and sensible treatment of the insane which has since been universally adopted throughout the civilised world.

But above all during this period the conflict, *impending* at first but afterwards *actual*, between England and America, excited his deepest attention. He had protested against war with France,—a nation whom he says we call "our natural enemy;"—but here was the question of war between brothers, "a fratricidal war involving the lives of perhaps 100,000 fellow-men taken from the loom or from tillage."

We can perhaps hardly now estimate the closeness of the family ties which then bound the two nations together.

Dr. Fothergill's days were not separated by more than 100 years from the departure of the first Pilgrim Fathers, and by much less from the Earlier Friends who sought an asylum in the New World, and from that date there had

been a continuous stream of emigration of thoughtful and well-to-do men belonging to the class among whom he moved. In addition, Dr. Fothergill's father and brother Samuel had kept up, by their frequent visits to the settlements of Friends, a warm friendship with many in America. Dr. Fothergill's house was also the rendezvous of the various noted American ministers who came to visit their English brethren.

He was thus, both by knowledge and natural sympathy, warmly attached to his American Friends, and alive to all that related to their welfare. He had freely assisted them in their schools at New York, Philadelphia, and other places; he had proposed plans for their adoption, for improving and giving work to the Indians, and had many correspondents, from some of whom he received political information, and from others new and rare plants and other objects of interest. Patients, too, attracted by his fame, braved the dangers of a six-weeks' voyage to obtain the benefit of his advice.

A few years before, he had written a most admirable pamphlet of thirty pages, entitled "Considerations relative to the North American Colonies," in which he justly says:—

> "There is scarcely a more important subject can occupy the attention than the war, being a contest with near two millions of English subjects descended from and inseparably connected with ourselves." And further on he adds, "If we inquire into the conduct of the wisest States of former days, to their distant colonies, we shall find it always to have been to treat them with kindness and indulgence; to engage them to look back to the mother country with duty and affection, and to recom-

pense the protection they have enjoyed by the produce of their labour, their commerce, and, when needed, their assistance. We meet not with many instances, comparatively, even of distant conquered countries revolting, till causes of strong disgust had sown the seeds of discontent, and succeeding acts of oppression and injustice had ripened them into rebellion.

"Colonies sprung from Britain," he observed, "will bear much, but it is to be remembered that they are the sons of freedom; and what they have been early taught to look upon as virtue, in their ancestors, will not soon be forgotten by themselves; nay they will the sooner be apt to vindicate their wrongs."

With Benjamin Franklin, who at that time was in Europe seeking to obtain a settlement of the points in dispute with the mother country, he formed a friendship, and had frequent negotiations and discussions. In these negotiations he was assisted by his friend David Barclay, who shared his views. Here is a short note, under date of the Tenth Month, 1774, written in the early morning to David Barclay, who lived in Red Lion Square, not far from Harpur Street:—

"I came home last night at ten o'clock extremely fatigued. I could not forbear giving perhaps a very strong proof of it. If the enclosed remarks are worthy of the least notice, I wish we could see one another this morning before nine o'clock."

This paper was intended as the basis of measures for obtaining a speedy and honourable settlement of the pending dispute, and was afterwards submitted to Dr. Franklin, who accepted in the main the Doctor's sugges-

tions. It is a paper honourable alike to his clear understanding and judgment, and the impartiality with which he viewed the points in dispute. Had it been adopted, as was at one time hoped, by our Government, as the basis for a settlement with her great North American provinces, England might probably have been spared the war, and the Colonies have obtained a free Constitution.

As a Yorkshireman he ever took a deep interest in all that related to his native county, and, prior to the General Assembly of Electors, held at York, in December, 1779, he addressed a letter (intended no doubt for the meeting) to his friend Henry Zouch, the clergyman of Sandal, in which he speaks in trenchant language of the injury resulting to the country from the policy of the Government.

"There is one necessary point which I think you ought, in the first place, to state most clearly—the general decay of the *county—and keep close to your own county*—manufactures declining, commerce languishing, value of land decreasing, public improvements at a standstill, bankruptcies numerous, taxes increasing, multitudes distressed. . . . Pray, therefore, that peace may be restored between us and America, as the only means of saving your country from every species of calamity; the war with that country and its consequences being the general cause of these distresses.

"Once more excuse me,—if I am taking a liberty unbecoming me,—the honour of our county, the good of the country in general, is at stake. If you ask for what is EVIDENTLY 'great and right' your example will be followed by all."

Notwithstanding the intense pressure of all these

varied engagements, we find that he was an Elder, and became a member of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, appointed to visit the Meetings of Friends in the various counties of England. He was thus engaged for many weeks, chiefly in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Westmoreland, and it was whilst thus engaged that he paid his last visit to Carr End, in 1777.

It may have been that these visits, and the ignorance he found in many quarters, gave additional force to his long-cherished desire to see a sound and Christian education more generally valued, and made accessible to all classes in the Society of Friends. Be this as it may, it was in this year that he succeeded in giving a practical shape to his very long-cherished wish; and we now come to that point in our narrative which, extending over the three remaining years of Dr. Fothergill's life, gives the History of the Establishment of Ackworth School, which was, as Luke Howard justly called it, "The Era of a Reformation in our Religious Society."* And was not this truly a New Era, which laid the foundation of the sound, practical and religious education, which has to a large extent been the model of the more extended Educational System, which during the past hundred years has placed within easy reach of the humblest member of the Society of Friends an Education such as the wisest men of the present day, having recognised the want of for the numerous class in England "not in affluence," are now seeking to establish throughout the length and breadth of the land?

* "The Yorkshireman," by Luke Howard.

Throughout the period extending from 1700 to 1777 the subject of Education was frequently and pressingly brought forward by the Yearly Meeting. This was strikingly the case during the earlier years of this period, and not less so, later on, from about the year 1750, and forward. This is not the place to go into this interesting question; but up to 1777 it is believed that the school at Gildersome, established by Brighouse Monthly Meeting, and the "School Fund" of York Quarterly Meeting, were the only visible or practical results of this deep concern. That Dr. Fothergill took a zealous interest in this movement there cannot be a doubt. He was one of the most active members of the Meeting for Sufferings from 1745 to the date of his death in 1780; and, as has already been stated, he presented to the Yearly Meeting of 1760 a Report from the Education Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings earnestly advocating the subject. This Report is a long and interesting one, and bears the stamp of Dr. Fothergill's style, and has especial reference to the "better encouragement of schoolmasters and mistresses in the various counties."

But to return to the year 1777, which may be considered as the year in which Ackworth School—the centenary of which we celebrate to-day—was conceived.

The Yearly Meeting of 1777—the year of the Inception of Ackworth School—passed the following minute:—

> "It being the judgment of this Yearly Meeting that encouragement for Boarding Schools suitable for the education of children whose parents are not in affluence will be advantageous, the consideration of a plan proper to this purpose is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings,

to be laid before the Meeting next year, to which Friends in the country are desired to give their attention and assistance. (*Yearly Meeting*, 1777.)"

The question naturally arises, What led to the selection of Ackworth as the place for carrying out this intention of the Yearly Meeting? The answer is found in Dr. Fothergill's own account of the transaction, which we take from his printed Letter to a Friend in the Country.

"Whilst I was in Yorkshire, in the autumn of 1777, mention was casually made of Ackworth Hospital. That it was on sale, and would probably be sold for a very moderate price, compared with the sum that it had cost. Though I had not seen the building I had seen and considered a plan of the house, and learned from that and from the report of many who had been on the spot, that the building, the situation, the healthfulness of the country, the plenty of provisions, and the vicinity of many valuable Friends, were such, that if it could be purchased and properly endowed, it might in many respects answer the intention of Friends, and lay the groundwork of an useful and permanent establishment.

"For the information of divers who may not be acquainted with the nature of these premises, it may be necessary to observe that, after the setting on foot the Hospital for Foundling Children in London, the public had great expectations of its utility; large sums were subscribed, and money likewise granted by Parliament, for erecting proper buildings for the reception of great numbers of children. A large hospital was built in London, another near Shrewsbury, in Shropshire, and this at Ackworth, as appendages to that in London, and under

the same direction. The Friends whom I consulted, on my return to London, thought it a matter of such moment, as to deserve attention; and, in pursuance of their opinion, inquiry was made concerning the price. I was given to understand that it was fixed at £7,000; and in a short time after was informed that £6,800 was offered for it by some other person. The Meeting for Sufferings was then consulted, and the state of the affair submitted to their consideration. They wished to have had the matter kept open for the deliberation of the next Yearly Meeting, but this was precluded by the unexpected offer of another purchaser. A number of Friends, in their private capacity, generously stepped forward with an offer to bear the Meeting for Sufferings harmless, should the ensuing Yearly Meeting decline the purchase. This being accepted, a contract was made in the autumn of 1777, and the matter reserved in this state for the deliberation of the following Yearly Meeting in 1778."

Elsewhere it is stated that the Ackworth Hospital had been erected eighteen years, occupied for twelve, and from that time had stood empty, though preserved from decay; and that the house, a strong convenient stone building, with eighty-four acres of land, which had cost the Foundling Hospital £17,000, had been purchased for £7,000.

Doubtless, though he does not mention it, Dr. Fothergill was one of those who, with his friend D. Barclay, thus stepped forward to bear the Meeting for Sufferings harmless.

In the negotiations for the purchase of the Ackworth premises it is also clear that Dr. Fothergill had the largest share; and it was not unnatural that as he resided in Harpur Street, within ten minutes' walk of the Foundling

Hospital, he should have conducted the business with the authorities of this Institution; and in one of the minutes of the Yearly Meeting it is stated that the property had been "contracted for by *one individual.*"

In a letter written about this time (autumn, 1777,) to Henry Zouch, the clergyman at Sandal, he says,—

"As we are to take possession at Michaelmas, I thought the Committee of the Foundling Hospital would at least have taken care of their interest till then, and have delivered up the premises in decent order, but on receiving thy obliging letter I applied to one of the Committee, and requested leave to enter at once, on condition of making the Hospital a suitable recompense."

He then goes on to state that the Committee "had granted this permission," and mentions that in the previous year, 1776, the Hospital had received £109 for Gist cattle (or about 30s. per acre for the right of grazing), as the ground had been chiefly pastured, and only nine acres cultivated.

He also adds that he thinks it "will be more consistent with ourselves to relinquish all claims upon the pews in the Church,—They may possibly be generous enough to think them worth some equivalent; we shall give up our interest to the next rightful owner."

In conclusion, he says:—

"*It will be a long time before I shall be able to prevail on many whom it concerns to enter thoroughly into my wishes to promote this establishment, and the times are against me; but I am not apt to despair. I have contended with difficulty, as every man has who travels on this globe, and must do it cheerfully.*"

Under date Twelfth Month 24, 1777, we find the following in a letter from sister Ann to her niece Sally Hird,*of Leeds—

"Brother desires his love to thyself and family, and to say he took it kind that thy husband went with John Hustler (of Bradford) to view Ackworth. The affair is to be concluded next Second-day."

In the Fifth Month of the following year "Sister Ann" again writes to her niece Sally Hird, of Leeds:—

"That David Barclay and his wife and Thomas Collinson and his wife are coming to Leeds. Their principal inducement to come down now is to view Ackworth, about which many demurs arise as to the propriety of engaging in so large an undertaking. They have a mind to see the premises to enable them better to form a judgment, and to act accordingly. They propose to travel in David Barclay's coach, taking horses from stage to stage, so as to take less time. They are expected to be absent from home about ten days."

In the same letter "Sister Ann" speaks very feelingly of her brother's "*hard servitude*" in his practice, and of his having "much to suffer both in body and mind." No doubt there were many faint-hearted and wavering, and others who opposed him as too sanguine; but, happily, the report of the visit of his friends D. Barclay and T. Collinson appears to have been satisfactory; for shortly after their return, under date of Sixth Month 5th, 1778, we find that the Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings brought in the following Minute, which was read, and "is to go in with the other

* The wife of Dr. Hird, of Leeds, who was devoted to Dr. F., and of whom he afterwards wrote a very interesting memoir.

Minutes to the Yearly Meeting." We give the names of those present at this Committee, and an extract from the Minutes, evidently the writing of Dr. Fothergill, to whom there can be no doubt that we are indebted for the establishment of Ackworth School. Let us repeat the date, and hold these names also in grateful remembrance.

"Met, pursuant to adjournment, the 1st of Sixth Month, 1778.

"Present—Timothy Bevan, Thomas Corbyn, Jacob Hagan, John Eliot, John Wright, John Hill [the future Treasurer], John Townsend, Joseph Row, David Barclay, Daniel Mildred, Robert Howard, Joseph Hooper, Obed Cooke, Henry Sterry, Thomas Horne, William Forster, Owen Weston and John Fothergill.

"We, the Committee appointed to consider of some proposal for the education of children whose parents are not in affluent circumstances, pursuant to the directions of the last Yearly Meeting, have met many times, and employed much serious attention on the subject. Some assistance we have received *from a friend or two* in the country, and wish that many more had been actuated by a like desire to promote this important object. The Committee—well knowing from past experience that great difficulties would arise in the execution of any proposal likely to be attended with expense, and being satisfied that nothing could be effectually done without it—entered upon the consideration of this business under great discouragements. They had recourse to the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting and the Meeting for Sufferings in respect to the education of Friends' children, and found that this subject had been taken up in the Yearly Meeting of 1758;

further considered in 1759, and that in 1706 a proposal for the encouragement of schoolmasters had been agreed to, and recommended to the several counties and places. It would seem that from want of proper zeal to promote this important concern, the directions of the Yearly Meeting were not attended to in the counties in general; a few only endeavoured to act agreeable to the plan they had received.

"In our last Yearly Meeting the subject of Education was again revived, and the situation of such Friends as were not of ability, however willing to provide a suitable education for their children, was more particularly taken into consideration, and the Yearly Meeting, with much sympathy and regard, felt the necessity of endeavouring to provide for their relief, and the matter was referred to the Meeting for Sufferings, as well as to Friends in general, in order to consider some practicable method of effecting this very necessary purpose."

The report then goes into the detail of the purchase of Ackworth Hospital, and concludes with the following words:

"Your Committee have not been able to frame any proposal for the education of such children as are the objects of the Yearly Meeting's care, so likely to be carried into execution, and to be attended with so beneficial effects, as might be obtained were these premises to become the property of Friends, who thereby would be in possession of a place capable of admitting a large number of children, and might afford an opportunity of forming a practicable plan, for the education of such children as are not in affluent circumstances, according to the direction of the last Yearly Meeting."

The Yearly Meeting of 1778, to whom the Report was addressed, appointed a large Committee of London and country Friends "to report their sentiments upon the Minute of the Meeting for Sufferings, and to make such further proposal as they may deem expedient."

This Committee, consisting of sixty Friends, contained as the Yorkshire representatives, John Hustler, of Bradford, and William Tuke,* of York, the latter of whom brought in to the Yearly Meeting, at a future sitting, the following Minute:—

"*It is the opinion of this Committee that the House and Estate at Ackworth in the County of York, contracted for by consent of the Meeting for Sufferings, should be purchased for the use of the Society; that a liberal subscription be immediately set on foot during the sitting of this Meeting for making this purchase;* and that the Meeting for Sufferings should be empowered to borrow on interest, on the lowest terms, such sums of money as may be further necessary to complete the agreement, and establish the intended Institution at Ackworth; the interest to be paid out of the profits of the Estate."

Such was the decided Report of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, which must have cheered the heart of Dr. Fothergill.

After deliberate consideration, the report of its Committee was adopted, and the Yearly Meeting directed that the buildings and Estate at Ackworth, contracted for provisionally at the price of £7,000, be purchased for the use of the Society; and that the following methods for raising the

* The writer's great-grandfather.

sums necessary for completing the purchase, furnishing the house, and establishing a school, be recommended to the several counties, viz., by Donations; by Annuities; by Subscription; by issuing Bills of Admittance, the amount of which was fixed at £8 8s. for one year's education, maintenance, and clothing. It was further directed that the School should be opened in the Third Month of the following year (1779); but from various circumstances it was not actually opened until the Tenth Month of that year.

In the Seventh Month of the same year (1778) the Meeting for Sufferings appointed the first *London Committee*, consisting of twenty-four Friends—seven a quorum—which held its first sitting on the 18th of Eighth Month, 1788, at which a scheme for the management of the School was prepared, Dr. Fothergill's nephew (John Chorley) being Secretary of the Commitee. Dr. Fothergill and his friend D. Barclay were among the number who attended.

With the scheme, a circular, detailing the various steps hitherto taken, was sent down to the country, which says:—

> "From this it will appear how much the very important subject of procuring a sober religious education has employed the attention of the Society."

It adds:—

> "That a sum of £2,000 will be needed to furnish and establish the house in addition to the purchase-money of £7,000."

It is further proposed:—

> "That a substantial tenant be sought for, to take the land, and a judicious Friend to superintend the house and garden and purchasing of provisions.

"That a woman Friend be inquired for, to have the charge of the family, the provisions, and do all the duties of a housekeeper.

"That a master, capable of teaching the boys to read, write, and keep accounts, and to teach writing and accounting to the girls, be appointed.*

"That a teacher of the girls, capable of instructing them in reading, needlework, spinning, and housewifery, be provided, and, as the School increases, proper assistants be allowed."

The Yearly Meeting of 1779, of which Dr. Fothergill was Clerk, had little to do but to confirm the action of the previous year.

Writing of this, his niece, Alice Chorley, says :—

"My uncle John was Clerk to the Yearly Meeting this year (1779). Ackworth School is now at last agreed upon, and there is to be a grand meeting to choose deputies, appoint and nominate wise, prudent, and skilful people, for putting the School on a proper foundation, so that it may be permanently lasting, and hand down the names of its institutors to latest posterity."

At this "grand meeting" Dr. Fothergill paid his first visit to Ackworth, and the first General Meeting was held there from the 29th to the 31st of Seventh Month, 1779. By Ann Fothergill's little diary† of these last journeys which she took with her brother, and which gives with

* It will be seen that a woman was not then thought likely to teach accounting and writing.

† A thin little book, with paper cover, about three inches square, kindly placed at my disposal for this Memoir by A. Fothergill, containing itineraries of journeys to Lea Hall, Carr End, Ackworth, &c.

characteristic minuteness a list of all their stopping-places between London and Ackworth, we find that the journey occupied five days, and that at Pontefract, where they lodged at the "Red Lion," they met many Friends, and remained four days at Ackworth. At this General Meeting, the first held at Ackworth, a Report, signed by William Tuke, was drawn up to be presented to the next Meeting for Sufferings, in which it is said that pursuant to the direction of the Yearly Meeting very considerable numbers of Friends appointed by their Quarterly Meetings, and several of the Ackworth Committee from London, met at Ackworth, together with divers Friends from different parts. At this General Meeting, the first Country committees of men and women Friends were appointed.

The Report, after expressing satisfaction that the premises lately purchased were in good condition, and the house well built, spacious, and judiciously contrived, observes, that the great end of establishing the School, is to secure a pious, guarded, useful education to the children of Friends not in affluence; and acknowledges with a degree of thankfulness that their "minds were often covered with a sense of divine goodwill in the course of their deliberations on this important subject."

Nearly three months afterwards the School, as we have said, was opened on the 18th of Tenth Month, 1779, under the care of John Hill,* as Treasurer and Superintendent; and his wife Judith Hill, as mistress of the family; and Hannah Little, as Teacher.

* Luke Howard, who resided at Ackworth, writing in 1836, says, "that he well remembers John Hill, in his venerable grey hairs, and his wife in the midst of the family."—*Vide* "Yorkshireman," p. 309.

As showing Dr. Fothergill's continued care over the details of the new School, I may quote from a letter dated from Lea Hall, in which he says:—

"I have been endeavouring to assist Ackworth as well as I could, and have found a young man here who I hope may answer as a schoolmaster. I wish he could be a fortnight under the hands of a drill-sergeant to teach him only how to walk (but that among ourselves). Schoolmasters often strut sufficiently, but they should learn sometimes to do it with a good grace, for the sake of example; but we must take him as he is."

About this time we find:—

"1779, *Tenth Month 28th.*—Ann Fothergill writing to Sarah Hird—'My brother has prevailed on Nancy (Hill) to go to Ackworth to teach the girls there, at least for the present, and likewise prevailed with her father to accompany her thither, and stay a few weeks himself to superintend and assist in establishing good order in the beginning. They set off last evening in the coach with five or six girls under their care, so that if it suits thee to go to Ackworth next Second-day, if they get safe down thou would receive late intelligence of us, and it would be satisfactory to them to see a cordial face they know.'"

We find, also, that he published a shorter edition of Dean Percy's "Key to the New Testament," for the use of Ackworth School. In the preface to this little book (the last, I believe, of his works,) he says:—

"I think it is a duty we owe to the rising generation among us, of all degrees, not only to accustom them to the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures, but likewise to inform them, as far as we can, of all those eternal

circumstances and events which tend to explain or confirm the doctrines they contain.

"The Key is worthy to be put into the hands of youth of every rank in life. The higher classes may receive information from it; but as my intention in procuring this extract was principally to accommodate the children at Ackworth, where a plain English education is all that is proposed, such parts of the Key are omitted as seemed less to coincide with such an Institution.—J. F."

In the spring of the following year the Country Committee (held Fifth Month 1st, 1780), in a report signed by its first Clerk, William Tuke, gives some information as to the state and progress of the Institution up to that period. From this it appears that seventy boys and fifty-three girls had been admitted. They add that the want of such an establishment seems clearly evident, from the ready disposition with which Friends have embraced the privilege of giving to their children the means provided for a pious and guarded education.

A Statement of Accounts is appended, by which it appears that—

£6,380	had been given in donations.
3,050	Donations, subject to annuities.
10	Legacy.
1,596	Bills of Admittance (190 at £8 8s.)
£11,036	

Dr. Fothergill himself, and his friend D. Barclay, gave £300 each, and subscribed a further £200 by way of annuity; five others gave £200 each, and seventeen gave

£100 each, and many of whom gave a similar sum subject to an annuity.

The action of the Meeting for Sufferings, which has been detailed, and the warm support given by the Yearly Meeting to the establishment of Ackworth, does not in any way detract from the important part which Dr. Fothergill took in its establishment. That he had been for years working for this object both in the Meeting for Sufferings and in the Yearly Meeting, we have already seen; and it is I think clear, that the estate at Ackworth would not have been purchased, had it not been for his earnest perseverance and determination in overcoming all obstacles.

Nor does it render him less entitled to have his name handed down to the latest posterity as the founder of Ackworth School, that he did not, as has often been stated, purchase it wholly and present it to the Society. And jointly with his name, and entitled to our gratitude and remembrance, we must not omit to mention that of his warm and devoted friend David Barclay* (of London), and in Yorkshire, those of his friends, John Hustler (of Bradford), and William Tuke (of York).

In the summer of 1780 (the last of his life) Dr. Fothergill paid his second, and subsequently a third, visit to Ackworth School. We take the following vivid description of the Doctor's journey from Ackworth to Lea Hall, after the first of these visits, from his sister's diary, and of her own feelings after visiting the School.

"17*th Eighth Month*, 1780.—We got well to Halifax

* David Barclay was the grandson of Robert Barclay, of Ury, the distinguished author of Barclay's "Apology."

before twelve, ordered dinner early, to go on as far as we could. But so many were apprised of my brother's coming, that he had a number of apothecaries and patients presently, that put him almost out of patience, and detained us until four o'clock, though he left divers unsatisfied. Some urged his staying all night, that he might see more, which was no part of his plan, and then to Littleborough that night; and to Manchester about nine next morning, where my brother was that day employed unceasingly."

She thus refers to Ackworth:—

"As to my thoughts on Ackworth I can say little, but this, that so agreeable, well ordered (so far as I had time to observe) numerous young family impressed my mind so satisfactorily, that it dwells on my thoughts, and some idea of it has attended my mind in dreams almost each night since I left the place. May best wisdom vouchsafe His influence to direct and preserve those who sustain the arduous task of its good government to its latest time."

In the same month Dr. Fothergill writes a very interesting letter to the celebrated Dr. Priestley, in which he says:—

"*Near Middlewich, Cheshire, 24th of Eighth Month,* 1780.—I called at Ackworth on my way hither, and find we have made a pretty prosperous beginning. Above 80 girls and 150 boys are got together in less than ten months' time. The head of the house is made for it, and teachers we are making as fast as we can. The children are already moulded into excellent order, clean and attentive. The beginning is prosperous, the event must be left.

"It is my fervent wish that all the professors of Christianity may be more anxious to live Christian lives than

either in advancing the consequence of a sect, or reflecting on our fellow-servants and our brethren, the sons of the same Father. To establish young minds in Truth, and erase the prejudices that may have been sown, is a great object with me. . . . Reading, writing and arithmetic for the boys, and for the girls the addition of necessary female employments, are there taken care of.

"To give them an early inclination of acting uprightly, *doing to all as they would desire others to do to them, even in the most trivial concerns of life, is a matter I very much wish to have* KNEADED *into all their instruction.* If they can act so as to avoid the reproaches of their own minds in the first place, and then be able to act such a part as to feel an interior approbation, they never will slide far from the paths of rectitude."

In his published "Letter to a Friend" upon Ackworth School, from which we give the following extract, Dr. Fothergill lays down the broad principles in accordance with which he desired the education at Ackworth should be conducted—an education based upon the most profound conviction of the imperative claims of an enlightened conscience—and which inculcated above all things a reverence for the Almighty and a fear of offending Him.

"But above all, it is hoped that every opportunity will be embraced of cherishing in their tender minds obedience to that principle of light and truth which is given us to profit withal. And however necessary it is for all to be bred up in the fear of offending this pure inward spirit of truth which naturally leavens the mind into a teachable, submissive frame; yet to those whose condition in life makes a just subordination a duty, a temper of this kind

must be an invaluable blessing. Perhaps there is nothing in the common course of public education in the world that so unfits men for that humble attention to the Divine monitor within, that renders them such perfect strangers to the spirit of Christianity, and all its happy effects, as the cultivation of a bold, unfeeling disposition, which, under a notion of promoting manliness and courage, too often sets aside that great defence and ornament of youth, a modest and ingenuous temper; accustoms them to throw off all the restraints of duty and affection, and at length to bid defiance to entreaty, admonition and reproof.

"In this place it is hoped that endeavours will be used to form in the children a temper widely different, equally remote from a culpable fear and servility, and an audaciousness that knows no respect for order or authority.

"There is a circumstance in the bringing up of Friends' children, which has been, and yet is, of greater importance to them than perhaps is generally apprehended, and I mention it, as in the proposed Institution it will doubtless be particularly regarded. To habituate children from their early infancy, to silence and attention, is of the greatest advantage to them, not only as a preparative to their advancement in a religious life, but as the groundwork of a well-cultivated understanding. We are almost the only professors of Christianity who acknowledge the use of this absolutely necessary introduction to Christian knowledge and Christian practice. To have the active minds of children early put under a kind of restraint, to be accustomed to turn their attention from external objects, and habituated to a degree of abstracted

quiet, is a matter of great consequence and lasting benefit to them. To this they are inured in our assemblies, and to sit in silence with decency and composure. Though it cannot be supposed their young and active minds are always engaged as they ought to be, yet to be thus accustomed to quietness, and initiated to curb and restrain the sallies of their youthful dispositions, is no small point gained towards fixing a habit of patience and recollection, and a regard to decorum which seldom forsakes those who have been properly instructed in this entrance to the school of wisdom during the residue of their days.

"Did the subject of this letter admit of it, it would not be difficult to show from abundant authority, and reason itself, the vast aid afforded to the improvement of the human mind, by early habits of silent attention. The most ancient schools of philosophy taught and practised it, and the Scriptures are so full of precepts on this head which ought to remove every objection to this necessary duty."

Later on in this year (1780) Dr. Fothergill and his sister retraced their steps from Lea Hall, and paid their third and last visit to Ackworth, attending the Committee held, as now, in the Tenth Month.

Here is his own account of the reason which led him to attend a second time in the year, at no little inconvenience to himself.

Ninth Month 16th, Dr. Fothergill writes:—

"Perhaps we may stay with our relatives at York some part of Sixth-day, and get to Pomfret and Ackworth to the Committee on Second-day following. I have been

labouring closely with my pen every vacant hour since I came hither, not for myself, but on the Yearly Meeting minutes. A week's respite would have been pleasing, and perhaps useful; but as our friend David Barclay has given up so much of his time, and wishes I could meet the Friends there, I cannot but yield to his desire who has sacrificed so much of his time and labour to this very important undertaking. David Barclay sent me a pretty full account of the affairs at Ackworth, many of which will require very serious attention."

David Barclay had at this time a house at New Miller's Dam, near Wakefield, and, whilst in the neighbourhood, paid frequent visits to the School, in which he took so deep an interest.

I cannot find that there is any record of this visit or Committee from the pen of Dr. Fothergill; but his nephew, Dr. Hird, of Leeds, who was present, speaks of Dr. Fothergill as breaking the solemn silence of a Committee, and expressing himself as "rejoicing with a degree of trembling, as he saw with heartfelt satisfaction the apparently complete state of the Institution over which he had spent very much of the past two years, and laboured very ardently for the promotion of this great design."

The little diary of his sister from which I have before quoted refers to it, and expands and wells over with a note of thankfulness as they return home together, *for the last time*, and almost as I think with some touch of insight that the beloved and useful life which she prized above all others was not long to be spared to her.

"*At Ackworth, Tenth Month*, 1780.—Next day a large concourse of Friends attended. Good order prevailed, and

wholesome rules were established, and a degree of peace comfort and consolation, was to be felt, as if a blessing hovered over the Institution and was ready to own the upright labourers in its promoting.

"*Third-day Morning.*—We parted with its inhabitants in much love, and to see its prosperity and feel the sweet reward of peace cheered our journey, and gave consolation to this good man and worthy promoter as long as any visible object could, as his upright intention and desire seemed granted and blessed."

"Home by Doncaster, Bawtry, Tuxford, Newark, Stamford, Stilton, Huntingdon, Royston, Waltham Cross. Came home well in health, and, through favour, with peaceful minds, that evening, Tenth Month 6th, 1780."

One of the most important objects of Dr. Fothergill's life was now accomplished, and we can only devote a few words to the account of its close. Before doing so, however, the following graphic description of Dr. Fothergill, as he appeared probably at the time of his last visit to York, written by a great-nephew, cannot fail to be of interest:—

Extract from Records of John Fothergill, of York (1793).

"Dr. Fothergill was pious, generous, and benevolent, rather above the middle age; very delicate and slender, of a sanguine temperament; his forehead finely proportioned; his eyes light-coloured, brilliant, acute, and deeply penetrating; his nose rather aquiline; his mouth betokened delicacy of feeling, his whole countenance expressed liability to irritation, great sensibility, clear understanding, and exalted virtue.

"He usually wore a large low three-cornered hat, a white medical wig, with rows of small curls descending one under another from near the crown to his shoulders; a coat, waistcoat, and breeches of nearly white superfine cloth; the coat without any collar, large cuffs, and two of the buttons buttoned over his breast; the waistcoat with long flaps; the ends of his cravat were buttoned within his waistcoat; the stockings he wore were silk and the colour of his clothes; his buckles were small.

"His coach was dark green, with wheels of the same colour; the horses were tall black ones, with very short dock'd tails after the old manner. His coachman was exceedingly lusty: he weighed at least sixteen stone; his livery was a plain cocked hat, a white wig, a light drab coat with a velvet collar the same colour, and bright haycock buttons. My great-uncle left him £50 per annum. Dr. Fothergill had a little stiffness in his address, when he walked along the streets he leaned forward a good deal."

The three years during which were carried on the negotiations ending in the opening of Ackworth School were, as we have seen, years of unremitting exertion. This severe strain told upon his health, and in 1778 he had an attack of the same internal disorder which terminated his life little more than a year after the opening of the School. As showing both the estimation in which Dr. Fothergill was held, and the immense extent of his practice and acquaintance, we find it stated that he had upwards of 600 calls or letters of inquiry after his recovery from the former attack. Writing to his brother Alexander of the excessive strain upon his health about this time he says:—

"I would wish to retire from the excessive labour, if I could get my affairs reasonably settled with a little to support us if I should live to old age. I have lost abundance, and worked hard for many from whom I can expect no return, whatever happens to me; and the growing calamities of the country involve every one in distress and difficulty."

And again, referring to his illness in 1778, he says:—

"I could wish gradually to retreat from the excessive hurry I have long lived in, and to live a little more to my friends and to myself. I have had a narrow escape; . . . another day might have been my last. Through Divine favour I was preserved easy and resigned, knowing that it had been my wish to live in the fear of the Lord, that I might die in His favour; and so, dear brother, may it be with us all, to the end of our time, be it longer or shorter."

Two months after his return from his last visit to Ackworth he was again seized with illness, which terminated his useful busy life in about a fortnight.

Very touching are the letters (belonging to the Crosfield family of Liverpool) commencing with the 15th of the Twelfth Month, 1780, three days after the seizure, which David Barclay addressed to Dr. Fothergill's nephew, Dr. Hird, of Leeds, which describe almost daily the sufferings of the patient, and the resignation and fortitude with which he bore them. His death took place on the 26th of Twelfth Month, 1780, at the age of sixty-eight.

The event was regarded as little short of a national calamity, and the papers and periodicals of that day were filled with notices of the departed. The *Noon Gazette* had

two long notices occupying several columns. In the *Gentlemen's Magazine* and *Annual Register*, and other papers, appreciative obituaries appeared. "His great reputation," says the *Annual Register* (for 1781), "is universally established. The exercise of his great abilities was not confined to the practice of medicine and the study of nature, but was unrestrictively employed for the promotion of the general good and happiness of mankind, and as his extensive knowledge, public spirit, and many virtues were not less eminent than his medical skill, he will be deservedly reckoned among the illustrious characters of the present age." "His mind," says Dr. Hird,* "was of that open, candid, enlarged class, which surveys all the families of the earth, and all orders of men, with a liberal and comprehensive view, as the children of one common Parent, and equally under the care of His Providence; and he was instant, at all times, to support what was truly good and virtuous under all forms and denominations whatsoever. He was a man of charity in the true Christian sense, 'thinking no evil.' . . . Yet I should think myself guilty of neglect to the memory of my deceased friend did I not observe that he abhorred the prevalent infidelity of the age, and gloried in the name of Christian.

"His attachment to revealed religion was sincere, arising from rational conviction and mature deliberation. He valued the Scriptures as the great depository of Divine Truth, and was never ashamed of those great fundamental doctrines, salvation through the Mediator Jesus Christ, and sanctification by the influence of His Holy Spirit."

* Dr. Hird's affectionate tribute to the memory of Dr. Fothergill, 1782.

Dr. Franklin, writing from Paris, says of him:—"I doubt whether there has ever existed a man more worthy than Fothergill of universal esteem and veneration."

In the Nouvelle Biográphie Générale, of Paris, it is said —"He was a philanthropist in the highest sense of the term, and he merits the most honourable position among the benefactors of mankind;" and adds that the following simple inscription was placed on his tomb:—"Here lies Dr. Fothergill, who dispensed 200,000 guineas for the relief of the distressed (Malheureux)."

That such a sum is much larger than that which he so freely gave away, may well be admitted, but what he did give away, and what was the total of the fees he refused to take, will never be known. That these did amount to very many thousands cannot be doubted; and if, as is stated by contemporary writers, he had an income for some years of £7,000 or £8,000 per annum, it was not unnatural to suppose (as was then also stated) that the fortune he left behind him was, for that period, "immense"—£80,000. Such, however, was not the case; and from private papers and accounts I infer that his property did not much exceed one-fourth of that sum, or £25,000 at the outside. His unselfish, generous, open-handed liberality, forbade that he should save; and of him it may truly be said that he realised the words of the Christian Poet of our own time—

> "He only who forgets to hoard
> Has learned to live."

In addition to the gifts previously made to Ackworth he bequeathed an annuity of £50 to the Institution, to insure which his executors purchased £1,666 13s. 4d. in Consols for the sum of £1,000, a figure at which it has stood for a

century in the accounts of the Institution, until last year the bequest was brought nearer to its present value of £1,500. To his faithful coachman Dr. Fothergill also gave an annuity of £50, and smaller sums to his other servants; bequeathing the bulk of his property to his sister Ann for her life, and afterwards to be divided among his nephews and nieces. Some idea may be gained of the extent of his library when it is stated that it took eight days to sell by auction. His almost unequalled collections of shells, coralines, insects, reptiles, &c., &c., were sold to Dr. Hunter for £1,500, a sum much below their value, and so fixed by Dr. Fothergill. His collection of paintings on vellum of rare plants and other objects of natural history were purchased for the Empress of Russia for £2,300; and his collection of engravings of English Portraits (probably the best then known) realised £90.

A letter from his devoted sister, written nearly two years after her brother's death (First Month 29th, 1782) vividly recalls the final scene in the sick-room in Harpur Street, and is written with as keen a sense of her loss as if penned at the time:—

"That my feelings have been exquisite thou wilt believe, and that deep solemn silence was most befitting as well as most desirable when it could be obtained.

"The full persuasion that Everlasting Rest is the happy exchange of my dearest friend and brother consoles me, and as I think I loved him more than my own life, or any temporal enjoyment or gratification for myself, so at times I can rejoice in his release from trials. Many hidden difficulties and oppressions he underwent and were increasing to his feeling mind in a world unworthy

of him. In this view I not only acquiesce but rejoice, as I believe he has fought the good fight, and is enjoying the Crown of Righteousness. My mind has been at times as peaceful as if I partook with him in this life, though when I return to a view of my loss, it is as recent as on the day when it happened. Some little account thou wilt desire to have. I cannot yet proceed to give much detail; the remembrance of the distressing scene was too affecting, and though I was enabled to bear it with apparent calmness, and to retain constant recollection and attention, what he suffered will never be erased from my memory whilst my faculties last. He was in extreme bodily pain, which he bore with patience, fortitude and resignation, to the admiration of all about him. He said little of his thoughts respecting himself on any affairs till a few days before his release. As I was sitting by him he said *tenderly*, 'Sister, be content; do not hold me. I have been low. I have been doubtful whether it would be well with me or not, but now I am satisfied beyond a doubt.' He repeated it—'beyond a doubt that I shall be everlastingly happy; therefore, be content, and may thou be blessed in time and in eternity'—in this sweet sensible disposition, grateful to everyone for what had been done for him, and desiring blessings upon us with his last intelligible voice; and I doubt not is singing praise to his Deliverer, is my consolation now" (to think).

Thus died the distinguished Yorkshireman John Fothergill, who in life had so thoroughly exemplified his own saying, *that the great business of man as a member of society is to be as useful to it as possible, in whatsoever department he may be stationed.*

"To prevent" (says his biographer) "the inconveniences that were feared and might result from the crowd that purposed to assemble to pay the last offices of esteem to his memory had he been interred in London, it was judged advisable to carry his remains into the country; which, on the 5th of January, 1781, were deposited in the burial ground of Winchmore Hill, about seven miles from town; nevertheless upwards of seventy coaches and chaises filled with friends attended upon this melancholy occasion. The tender remembrance of friendship yet lives in every breast; we mourn *without form;* we see and feel the void his fall has left, and which only time can mitigate, and resignation to the dispensation of that Power which orders all things with unerring wisdom and goodness beyond our comprehension."

Ann Fothergill, acting on her brother's directions, gave up the house in Harpur Street, and retired to a smaller house, No. 68, Great Russell Street. Here she lived out her quiet life, dying in 1802, at the age of eighty-four, the last of her generation. And now, side by side, in the peaceful suburban burial-ground of Winchmore Hill, two small headstones may be seen, which record the names of the devoted loving brother and sister, linked together in the last outward bond, as he so often had united their names when writing to various members of the family as "J. and A. Fothergill."

A few feet only divide these graves from another, the resting place of their friend David Barclay, close to which is another whereon is inscribed, "David Barclay of Cheapside, the Son of the Apologist."

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APPENDIX A.

Among the numerous objects belonging to Dr. Fothergill exhibited at Ackworth during the Centenary, none had more interest than a small pocket-Bible which belonged to his mother before her marriage, and respecting which there is a tradition that it was in after days the companion of her husband, John Fothergill, during his journeys in America, and made use of by him when preaching. It is now the property of William Fothergill, of Darlington. On the last fly-leaf the following inscription occurs:—

Margaret Hough. Her Book,
and she was Born ye 30th day
of ye 3rd Month, 1679.

On the first page of the New Testament Dr. Fothergill's birth is recorded—

John Fothergill was born the 8th of 1st mo. (o.s.)
1712.

Joseph Fothergill was born 16th of 12th mo.,
1712–13.

The Bible (small 32mo) was printed by John Field, Printer to the Parliament, 1653.

In addition to the Old and New Testaments, there is also "the whole Book of Psalms, collected into English meeters [*sic*] by Thomas Stirnhold and John Hopkins, and others, 1654."

APPENDIX B.

In addition to the very beautiful Wedgwood bust of Dr. Fothergill, in black ware, exhibited at the meeting—a specially fine specimen, which shows the delicacy and care taken in the execution of the mould, by the veins on the forehead, which were no doubt prominent in Dr. F.'s nervous and delicate face—Wedgwood also executed one or more very fine Cameo portraits, in white biscuit-ware on jasper (blue) grounds. One of these has been reproduced, and is well worth possessing from its intrinsic merits, and is the one from which the portrait engraved for this Memoir is copied. We are much indebted to J. Spence Hodgson, of Altrincham, for inducing the present firm of Wedgwood & Co., Etruria, to reproduce these beautiful works of art. The moulds were shown to me at the works last summer and are as perfect as when made, nearly a century ago.

A life-size plaster bust was also exhibited at the Centenary, which was presented, with other objects of interest, to Ackworth School, by I. M. Williams, of York. This varies very materially from the Wedgwood bust, and must have been taken when Dr. F. was much younger. Although it is stated that Dr. F. would never sit for his portrait, there are many paintings and engraved likenesses extant. The Royal College of Physicians of London has a portrait in oils, taken by Hogarth, and as this artist died in 1764, it must represent the Doctor as he appeared when about

fifty years of age. There does not seem to be any clear authority for calling this a portrait of him, though it probably is so.

On the back is written—

JOHANNES FOTHERGILL, M.D., F.R.S.
Hogarth Pinxit.
Ex dono Gulielmi Cribb, 1865.
Exhibited Nat : Portrait Gallery.

There is also an oil Portrait of Dr. Fothergill in the London Medical Society's Rooms, artist unknown, and poorly executed; evidently taken in later life, if not copied after death from an engraved portrait, and very similar to the numerous engraved likenesses. There are nearly a dozen of these, of which the following are most noteworthy—

Portrait, prefixed to his Memoir by Dr. Lettsom, 1782. Painter, R. Cosway; engraver, Bartolozzi.

Oval do., from a bust in possession of Dr. Lettsom. (In 4th edition of Lettsom's Life.) Painter, Livesay; engraver, Bartolozzi.

Oval do., from a bust by Mr. Wright (in possession of Dr. Lettsom). Painter, C. Blackbird; engraver, John Hall. Published in "Literary Magazine," 1790.

Folio Engraving, 1781. Painter, Stewart; engraver, V. Green. Published by Stewart & Green, London.

Engraving of Dr. F., with the "Good Samaritan" underneath. Engraved by Cook.

Another was published in Dr. Lettsom's "Hints on Benevolence."

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